

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A display for a client terminal for a television for an interactive video casting system, the display comprising:
 - a display screen; and
 - a display driver coupled to the display screen, the display driver capable to cause the display screen to display screen indicia indicative of events available via the interactive video casting system through the client terminal, the screen indicia capable of being displayed on the display screen at least alternatively to being displayed on the television.
2. The display of claim 1 wherein the screen indicia includes indicia indicative of events available other than through the client terminal.
3. The display of claim 2 wherein the events include at least one of a voicemail alert, incoming phone call alert, and message system alert.
4. The display of claim 1 wherein the screen indicia is capable of being simultaneously displayed on the television and on the display screen.
5. The display of claim 1 wherein the events include at least one of reminders, news headlines, e-commerce opportunities, sports scores, program reminders, program information, television program reminders, e-mail alerts, instant messages and emergency alerts.

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6. The display of claim 1 wherein the screen indicia comprises static text.
7. The display of claim 1 wherein the screen indicia comprises dynamic text.
8. The display of claim 1 wherein the screen indicia comprises a combination of dynamic and static text.
9. The display of claim 1 wherein the screen indicia comprises at least one graphical image.
10. The display of claim 9 wherein the screen indicia comprises a combination of text and at least one graphical image
11. The display of claim 1 wherein the display screen is at least one of a liquid crystal display, thin-film transistor (TFT) liquid crystal display, light emitting diode display, backlit display, seven-segment display, four-digit display, and gas plasma display.
12. The display of claim 1 wherein the display screen is capable to be detached from the client terminal.
13. The display of claim 1 wherein the display screen is capable to present a plurality of indicia.
14. In an interactive video casting network, a method comprising:

dynamically receiving data related to an event available via a client terminal for a television;

processing the received data to generate indicia indicative of the event; and

presenting the generated indicia as a screen element via a display screen for the client terminal at least alternatively to presenting the generated indicia on a screen of the television.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the display screen covers substantially an entire front of the client terminal.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the display screen includes soft buttons.

17. The method of claim 14 wherein processing the received data includes generating indicia consistent with user preferences.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the user preferences include preferences related to a format of the generated indicia.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the user preferences include preferences related to a category of event related to the generated indicia.

20. The method of claim 14 wherein an event comprises at least one of reminders, news headlines, e-commerce opportunities, sports scores, program reminders, record reminders, e-mail alerts, instant messages, and emergency alerts.

21. The method of claim 14, further comprising presenting indicia related to an operational feature of the client terminal.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the operational feature of the client terminal includes at least one of channel number, time, video cassette recorder (VCR) setting, digital video disk (DVD) setting, menu information, and program information.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein presenting the generated indicia includes presenting indicia of an event sequentially with indicia of the operational feature of the client terminal.

24. The method of claim 14 wherein the received data is sent along with a trigger that accompanies a broadcast television signal received by the client terminal.

25. The method of claim 14, further comprising presenting the generated indicia as sound.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the generated indicia includes an emergency alert tone.

27. An apparatus, comprising:

- a client terminal for a television for an interactive video casting network; and
- a display area coupled to the client terminal capable to present screen indicia of events dynamically received from a data source in the interactive video casting network, the display area of the client terminal capable to present the screen indicia at least alternatively to presentation on a screen of the television.

28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the data source comprises an Internet.

29. The client terminal of claim 27, further comprising an audible indicator to indicate a received event.

30. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a storage medium coupled to the client terminal, the storage medium capable to store data related to a customization of the screen indicia.

31. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the data related to the customization of the screen indicia includes data related to a sequence and content of the screen indicia.

32. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the sequence of the screen indicia is related to an order of presentation of screen indicia related to different events.

33. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a storage medium capable to store software to process user-preferences related to presentation of the screen indicia.

34. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the events are capable to be received by at least one of an Ethernet, digital subscriber line (DSL), dial-up modem, telephone connection, and wireless network.

35. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the dynamically received events include closed captions.

36. A system, comprising:

for an interactive video casting system, a client terminal for a television;

a display screen capable to be coupled to the client terminal; and

a display driver coupled to the display screen, wherein the display screen is capable to present indicia of events available through the client terminal at least alternatively to presentation on a screen of the television.

37. The system of claim 36 wherein the display screen is further capable to present indicia of operational features related to the client terminal.

38. The system of claim 37 wherein the display screen is capable to display indicia of the operational features alternately with indicia of the events.

39. In an interactive video casting system, a method comprising:

receiving a trigger in conjunction with a broadcast content signal;

obtaining an event represented by the trigger;

generating screen indicia of the obtained event ; and

displaying the generated screen indicia on a display for a client terminal for a television, wherein the screen indicia is capable of being displayed at least alternatively to being displayed on the television.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein the trigger comprises a television trigger inserted into the broadcast content signal.

41. The method of claim 39 wherein obtaining the event represented by the trigger includes extracting information from a web page.

42. An apparatus, comprising:
a client terminal for a television for an interactive video casting system,
wherein the television includes a screen to display information available from the interactive video casting system,
wherein the television is coupled to the client terminal,
wherein the client terminal is capable of being communicatively coupled to the interactive video casting system to receive the information available from the interactive video casting system and to cause presentation of at least some of the information on the screen of the television,
wherein the interactive video casting system includes a plurality of content sources communicatively coupled to a plurality of broadcast centers,
wherein the broadcast centers are coupled to storage units to store at least some of the information to be made available to the client terminal, and
wherein the interactive video casting system is capable to provide the information to the client terminal via different communication channels, including at least one of a plurality of television broadcast channels and a communication channel with a communication network; and
a display area coupled to the client terminal,
wherein the display area is capable to present screen indicia of events dynamically received from the interactive video casting system, and

wherein the display area of the client terminal is capable to present the screen indicia at least alternatively to presentation on the screen of the television.

43. The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the display area is detachable from the client terminal.

44. The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the client terminal is capable to present an audible indicator representative of a received event.

45. An apparatus, comprising:
a client terminal for a television for an interactive video casting system,
wherein the television includes a screen to display information available from the interactive video casting system,
wherein the television is coupled to the client terminal,
wherein the client terminal is capable of being communicatively coupled to the interactive video casting system to receive the information available from the interactive video casting system and to cause presentation of at least some of the information on the screen of the television,
wherein the interactive video casting system includes a plurality of content sources communicatively coupled to a plurality of broadcast centers,
wherein the broadcast centers are coupled to storage units to store at least some of the information to be made available to the client terminal, and
wherein the interactive video casting system is capable to provide the information to the client terminal via different communication channels, including at least one of a plurality of television broadcast channels and a communication channel with a communication network; and

a display area coupled to the client terminal,
wherein the display area is capable to present screen indicia of events dynamically received from the interactive video casting system,
wherein the display area is capable to display the screen indicia based on user preferences, and
wherein the display area of the client terminal is capable to present the screen indicia at least alternatively to presentation on the screen of the television.

46. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the display area is capable of being detached from the client terminal.

47. The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the broadcast centers comprise part of a satellite delivery system.

48. In an interactive video casting network, a system comprising:
a means for dynamically receiving data related to an event available via a client terminal for a television;
a means for processing the received data to generate indicia indicative of the event; and
a means for presenting the generated indicia as a screen element via a display screen for the client terminal at least alternatively to presenting the generated indicia on a screen of the television.

49. The system of claim 48 wherein the means for processing the received data includes a means for generating indicia consistent with user preferences.

50. The system of claim 48 wherein the received data is sent along with a trigger that accompanies a broadcast television signal received by the client terminal.

TELEPHONE